(a) what are the qualifications to be nominated a member of the Village Panchayat ;

(b) are difficulties experienced to nominate members with such high qualifications ;

(c) is there any proposal to reduce the minimum property qualification ; if so, what are the proposals ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) The Member is referred to the answers to questions 195 (c) of the Budget Session of 1101, 170 of the Legislative Session of 1102 and 12 of the Budget Session of 1102.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. The proposal is to reduce the amount of assessment referred to in rule 1 (v) of the Election Rules.

Motor vehicles accidents.

49. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the total number of accidents in the State for the last two years from motor vehicles ;

(d) the total number of mortality by the same ;

(c) the number of cases that were charged in the Criminal Courts ;

(d) the number of cases that were convicted ; and

(e) the total number acquitted or discharged during the said period?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—

(a) 66.

(b) 6.

(c) 30.

(d) 13.

(e) 7.

Diversion of the Manali River.

50. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state what is the report of the Special Irrigation Officer with regard to the diversion of the Manali River ?

Mr. A. K Vengu Ayyar.—A statement on the subject is appended. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

Thannikkudam Scheme.

51. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the Table the papers in connection with the Thannikkudam Scheme?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Chief Engineer's report C. No. 930 of 1101, dated 26th July 1927, is placed on the Council Table.

Bridge over the Chengal Canal.

52. Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state —

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(a) why, in spite of the assurance given by the Government that provision will be made in 1103 for the construction of a bridge over the Chengal Canal (Vide answer to question 111, Vol. III, page 1629 of the report of the Cochin Legislative Council Proceedings) the work has not been taken up till now;

(b) whether the Government can give any reasons other than 'want of funds' for delaying the taking up of this urgent work;

(c) whether the Government have provided for this work in 1104;

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, the reasons for not making provision for this work in 1104;

(e) whether the construction of this bridge was sanctioned by the Government during the Diwanship of Mr. (as he then was) T. Vijayaraghavachariar;

(f) whether the Government are aware that the people of the locality in question, especially the school-going population, are being put to considerable hardship and inconvenience owing to the absence of a bridge over the Chengal Canal?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The Government did not give any such assurance as stated.

(b) Government were obliged to provide for more urgent and important works.

(c) No.

(d) More urgent and important works had to be provided for in the budget for 1104.

(e) In the Road Committee's proposals, which were approved by Government, this work was proposed to be done in 1096. But it had to be postponed to give place to more urgent works.

(f) Government are aware that a bridge at the place will be useful.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The answer to the first part of my question is "the Government did not give any such assurance as stated." In spite of the answer given to question 111, Government gave this answer now. The question is: "*Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision regarding the construction of a bridge over the Chengal canal; if so, what is the decision?*"

The answer is: "*Comparative designs are being made by the Public Works Department. It was not found possible to allot money for the work in 1103. The work will be provided for without delay, funds permitting.*"

My question is: "Will the Government be pleased to state why, in spite of the assurance given by the Government that provision will be made in 1103 for the construction of a bridge over the Chengal Canal (Vide answer to question 111, Vol. III,

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page 1629 of the report of the Cochin Legislative Council Proceedings), the work has not been taken up till now."

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Was any promise given that the amount will be provided in 1103? No such promise was made.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The question was whether the Government had decided anything in regard to the work, etc.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—And the answer is: "*The work will be provided for without delay, funds permitting,*" and that does not amount to any promise.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I did not say so; whoever said that? "It will be provided for without delay." Here Government say "Government did not make any assurance."

President.—Your question implies an assurance.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I thought that the answer itself implied an assurance.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That does not show that Government will not take up the work. That was what was meant by that answer.

Mr. K.P. Kannan Nayar.—From the nature of the answer what one can understand is only this. The question was answered by the Chief Engineer thus :—"*Comparative designs are being made by the Public Works Department. It was not found possible to allot money for the work in 1103. The work will be provided for without delay, funds permitting.*" One could understand that provision would be made at least in 1104.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Or in 1105.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Or in 1106, or *ad infinitum.* Of course, you may be literally correct that there was no assurance given out that the amount would be provided in 1103. Then with reference to the last answer, "*Government are aware that a bridge at the place will be useful.*" Then the answer given to (e) is: "*in the Road Committee's proposals, which were approved by Government, this work was proposed to be done in 1096. But it had to be postponed, to give place to more urgent works.*" My question is: "*whether the construction of this bridge was sanctioned by the Government during the Diwanship of Mr. (as he then was) T. Vijayaraghavachariar.*" We are now in 1104.

President.—It is not a direct answer to the question. We are not concerned with the Road Committee's proposals.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—My question was whether the work was sanctioned.

President.—You state that the work was proposed to be done in 1096. What is wanted here is whether the construction

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of the bridge was sanctioned during the Diwanship of Mr. Vijayaraghavachariar.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The programme of the work was detailed during Mr. Vijayaraghavachariar's time. In that programme it was stated that this work would be taken up in 1096.

President.—You are explaining the answer already given. What is wanted here is whether the work was sanctioned during the Diwanship of Mr. Vijayaraghavachariar.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It was not sanctioned.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The Road Committee's proposals were approved by the Government. Was an estimate prepared and sanction accorded?

President.—So then they made out a certain programme that this would be taken up in 1096.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So the proposals of the Committee were approved.

President.—Of their proposals, we do not know which all were carried out.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Several of them were not carried out.

President.—So the answer to the supplementary question whether it was sanctioned during the time of Mr. Vijayaraghavachariar is that it was not sanctioned.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—So this was only approved and not sanctioned. So far as this proposal of the Road Committee to construct a bridge over the Chengal canal was concerned, it was approved.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—But not sanctioned in the same year. No correct estimate was made and approved and the amount sanctioned?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—In the estimate of the Road Committee, the approximate amount was given; but no correct estimate was made and approved and the amount sanctioned. But the work was ordered to be taken up in 1096 according to the programme of the Committee.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Then coming to question (f), the answer given is "*the Government are aware that a bridge at the place will be useful.*" But my question is "*whether the Government are aware that the people of the locality in question, especially the school-going population, are being put to considerable hardship and inconvenience owing to the absence of a bridge over the Chengal Canal.*" My question is whether any inconvenience is caused; but the answer refers to the usefulness of one. May

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I know whether any hardship is actually felt on account of the absence of a bridge there? That question is not answered here.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That answer implies that. If there is a bridge there, it would be useful.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Sanction implies that it would be taken up. It was sanctioned in 1096. We are now in 1104. We bring this to the notice of the Government for the purpose of showing that it may be taken up. That is all.

President.—I know there is considerable trouble.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—There is.

President.—Some questions were asked here whether you are a Director of the State-Aided Bank.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I am not a Director; I may say, not now. In the usual course I had to retire.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Did he become a Director after he came into this State service?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Oh yes. I was even before.

President.—Just as you are a Director of the Tropical Plantations. So far as the Tropical Plantations are concerned, you still continue to be a Director?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I have resigned that also.

President.—In the State-Aided Bank you were a Director before you came to this State service?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes. It is a contradicting statement.

President.—What I want to know is this. Before you took up service in this State, were you a Director in the Tropical Plantations and in the State-Aided Bank?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes, and that has been answered in this House before.

President.—There are so many things said. Who remembers all those things?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I say it has been answered, and this House ought to have known it.

President.—But Mr. Salem gives out an assurance that you still continue to be a Director of the State-Aided Bank.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I said that he became a Director of the State-Aided Bank after he was entertained in our State service. For the State-Aided Bank was started only 3 years ago.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—On a point of order. Are

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questions intended to be a matter for general discussion? What I mean to say is, we have heavy work on the agenda.

President.—Under the Standing Orders, there should not be any comment on the answers.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Especially on the third day, I mean the last day, when we have 100 and odd resolutions to be discussed. That is why I raise a point of order.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I have made, as a Member of this House, a statement of fact. I do not think any other Member can contradict that without being able to substantiate that statement. Otherwise he must withdraw that statement. I am saying that I was a Director of the State-Aided Bank long before. Now I have resigned, I think you may withraw that statement.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I shall not withdraw that statement. I still maintain he became a Director of the State-Aided Bank after he was entertained in the State service.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know when the State-Aided Bank was started ?

President.—Now we shall go to the next question.

Accidents during floods.

53. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether attention has been drawn to accidents caused to the public almost every year during floods in the main road to Chalakkudi very near the Manali bridge;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to prevent same at least in future?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) Accidents are sometimes reported.

(b) The Government are considering the question.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the nature of the accidents ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I want notice. The Member is not here.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was any driving accident reported ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In the questions and answers, it is found that it was answered by the Member himself. Yet he says that the Member is absent. Whether the Government have come to know that it is risky to travel by that road during floods ?

President.—To the north or south of the Manali bridge, which do you mean ?

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